LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT.

NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH)
COMBINED DISTRICTS.

. REPORT .

for the Year 1934

of the Medical Officer of Health,

C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B.
D.P.H.

Guisborough:
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1935.

To the Chairman and Members

of the

Loftus Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1934, which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health's circular, 1417.

The year shows a decrease in the figures of the three rates: birth-rate, death-rate and infant mortality rate. These statistics will be found on page 5 and more fully in the table on page 17. Death-rates cannot be directly compared with any fairness between localities, because a more youthful population in one place favours a lower death-rate, or a more elderly population in another a higher death-rate, even if the relative healthiness of the districts were the same. The Registrar-General, however, furnishes this year a correcting factor, by the application of which the variation in age-constitution between districts is cancelled out and legitimate comparison can be made. Employing this factor the "comparable" death-rate for the year is found to be 11·7, that for the country as a whole being 11·8, so that for this year the district may be said to have been of the same healthiness as the country as a whole. In early childhood the year has been especially favourable for the district: the infant deaths, at the rate of 39½ per thousand births, have been the lowest recorded, and similarly the deaths of children over one year, but under five, have been very few. This is the more satisfactory, as the average of the previous five years, 1929 to 1933, had shown some increase in deaths at these ages over the preceding five years.

Infectious disease has been somewhat prevalent during the year, with a large number of cases of scarlet fever, a few sporadic cases of diphtheria, and two patients from one household with enteric fever (paratyphoid B). There was an absence of serious influenza.

The chief item of sanitary progress in the district during the year has been the issue of statutory notices under section 39 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, for the conversion to water-closets of the privies in Robinson Terrace and Park Terrace.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Guisborough,

June 13th, 1935.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

	Borough of Redcar.	Guisborough Urban District.	Loftus Urban District.	Saltburn and Marske-by-the-Sea Urban District.	Skelton & Brotton Urban District.
A. Whole-time Officers.					
Medical Officer of Health			Dr. C. R. Gibson		
Medical Officer to Joint Isolation Hospital ...			Dr. C. R. Gibson		
Sanitary Inspectors ...	Mr. W. Tutin	Mr. R. H. Kilburn*	Mr. P. H. Audsley* to Nov. 13, 1934. Mr. A. Bates* from Dec. 1, 1934.	Mr. T. Young	Mr. R. Barry
Assis't Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. N. Hudson	Mr. F. A. Russell			(Mr. A. Cranmer, additional Housing Inspector).

*Also Surveyor for the district concerned.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 10,595.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid-1934: 8,010.
Number of inhabited houses on Rate-book, 1934: 2,008.
Rateable Value: £23,587.
Sum represented by a penny rate: £87.

The Loftus Urban District is roughly a square area, with one side on the north-east coast, bordered on the west by the Skelton and Brotton Urban District, and on the east and south by the Whitby Rural District. The main industries are ironstone mining, iron and steel works, and agriculture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of 1934.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live births, legitimate	99	52	47	Birth-rate 12·6.
illegitimate	2	1	1	
Still-births	2	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total births, 19.
Deaths	85	44	41	Death-rate ... 10·6.

Deaths in consequence of child-birth:

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
(*a*) from sepsis ...	0	0
(*b*) from other causes ...	1	10
(*c*) total	1	10

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants, per 1,000 live births	39½
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	40½
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
,, ,, Influenza (all ages)	3
,, ,, Pneumonia (all ages)	4
,, ,, Tuberculosis (all ages) ...	4
,, ,, Cancer (all ages)	9
,, ,, Heart Disease (all ages) ...	16

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There have been no developments or changes in the services provided in the area during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water: The quantity of supply has been generally satisfactory in the district throughout the year.

Complaints as to quality of the water were again received from Boulby village, where there were possibilities of contamination at the well, along the pipe line, and in the service reservoir. A sample from this supply was submitted for chemical analysis on 23rd April: the report was as follows:—

"The sample contained some brownish suspended matter, was alkaline to litmus when standing, and free from smell at 100 Fahr.

Analytical data.	Grains per gallon.
Total solids at 220 F.	21·5
Free and saline ammonia	0·0028
Albuminoid ammonia	0·0105
Nitrites	nil
Nitrates (as nitric anhydride)	0·30
Chlorides (as chlorine)	4·20
(equals sodium chlorine	6·92)
Oxygen absorbed in moist combustion from N/80 permanganate in 4 hours at 80 F. ...	0·056
Lead or Copper	nil
Hardness, stated as calcium carbonate:—	
Temporary	2·50
Permanent	5·25
Total	7·75

The analytical data shew this water to be of doubtful purity and I do not consider it safe for drinking purposes.

(Signed) W. McD. MACKEY."

Comparison of this analysis with that of samples from similar wells in the Easington area given in last year's annual report confirm the suspicion of the impurity of this supply, and this water-supply must still be regarded as unsafe.

Closet Accommodation: 14 Pail-closets and 1 Privy were converted to water-closets during the year. Statutory notices to convert 15 privies in Robinson Terrace and Park Terrace were served but completion was delayed until after the end of the year owing to protracted negotiations for the laying of the necessary water-main.

At the end of 1934 the number of closets of each type is given as

Privies	363
Pail-closets	1046
Water-closets	473

Sanitary Inspection of the Area: The report furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926, is given in Table 5.

Port Sanitary Report: The Skinningrove Iron Co. have a jetty at Skinningrove at which a few steamers call during the year to take on cargo. The following information concerning the character and amount of shipping and trade has been kindly supplied by the Skinningrove Iron Co.

I.—Amount of shipping entering the Port during the year.

Table A

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected. By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	Number reported to be Defective	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
Total Foreign ...	--		—	—	-	--
Coastwise (Steamers)	12	6,000	—	- -	---	-

II.—Character of Trade of Port.

Table B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year: nil.

(b) Cargo Traffic: Imports, nil.

Principal Exports, Pig Iron and Basic Slag.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive: nil.

III.—Source of Water Supply.

Water is obtained from the Cleveland Water Company.

IV.—Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933

No Declarations of Health have been received, as there have been no ships arriving from a foreign port.

No notifications have been received of inward vessels requiring special attention.

The question of mooring stations was discussed with the Customs Officer some years ago, and his advice was that no safe mooring station was available in the area.

No arrangements have been made for premises for medical examination, cleansing and disinfection of ships, etc., premises for the temporary accommodation of persons, hospital accommodation for plague, cholera, or yellow fever, or for ambulance transport other than that available for the other needs of the district.

Table C.

Cases of Infectious Disease landed from vessels: nil.

Table D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival: nil.

V.—Measures against Rodents.

Nil.

VI.—Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

No nuisances reported.

VII.—Food Inspection.

No action has been required.

Housing.

A tabulated statement of housing inspections and action taken is given in the appendix, page 16. The large number of houses inspected was in connection with surveys of the district for information on which to base recommendations for a five-year housing programme. My report to the Health Committee of the Council in December, 1934, dealt with this, and may be repeated here as containing my recommendations:—

"In July, 1933, I presented to you a Special Report on Housing under Ministry of Health Circular No. 1,331, making certain recommendations with regard to the Damside area, and in January, 1934, I made a Representation under Sect. 49 of the Housing Act, 1930, with respect to Forge Cottage, Scaling. This present report includes, extends and modifies these previous reports: it cannot be regarded as final, as a special survey of Skinningrove, Carlin How, Liverton and some smaller places has not yet been completed, but I do not anticipate that many more houses will fall to be dealt with.

I would recommend that fourteen houses be scheduled for demolition, eleven in small Clearance Areas, and three as individual unfit houses. The Clearance Areas are:—

No. 1: Two adjoining cottages, occupied respectively by Mrs. Thomas Ward and by Mr. Thomas, and the old boathouse under that occupied by Mrs. Ward, situated at the foot of Cowbar Bank.

No. 2: Two adjoining cottages, occupied respectively by Mr. William Porrit and by Mrs. Shorden, situated on Cowbar Bank.

No. 3: 10, Church Row, Damside, Loftus, the adjoining building containing a wash-house and dairy, and the unoccupied building, 11, Church Row, lately inhabited as a dwelling-house.

No. 4: Four cottages, 10, 9, 12 and 11, Damside, Loftus.

No. 5: The cottage, 1, Dobson's Yard, Loftus, and adjoining derelict building to the north of it.

The individual unfit houses are:—

6, Damside, Loftus:
7, Damside, Loftus; and
Forge Cottage, Scaling.

I would recommend that these fourteen houses be dealt with by you during the year 1935. I have already submitted a Representation regarding Forge Cottage, Scaling, and, in order that action by you may commence at once, I beg to submit Representations regarding the five Clearance Areas and the other two individual unfit houses.

I would recommend that, after consideration of these Representations and any necessary decisions regarding re-housing, you pass resolutions declaring each of these areas to be a Clearance Area, and, in the case of the individual unfit houses, fix a time and place at which the question of their demolition will be considered by you, and direct that the necessary notice be given to owners, etc."

In the case of one of the individual unfit houses, the owner is carrying out extensive repairs and alterations to bring it up to a suitable degree of fitness.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply: A large amount of milk is produced in the district, the excess over what is consumed in the area is sent to other neighbouring districts or is manufactured into butter and cheese.

Three samples of milk were submitted to the Scarborough Public Health Laboratory for report as to total bacterial count and presence of coliform bacilli, i. e. as to cleanliness. In two samples coliform bacilli were not found in 1 100 c.c., and in one of these the total count was under 10,000 bacteria per c.c., in the other between 10,000 and 30,000 per c.c.; in the third sample coliform bacilli were found in 1 100 c.c. and the total bacterial count was between 30,000 and 200,000 per c.c. The first two reports indicate a satisfactory degree of cleanliness of the milk, the last one does not.

In view of the importance of maintaining a high standard of cleanliness of the milk-supply I would recommend the submission of a much greater number of samples for examination, not less than one during the year from each retailer or producer of milk. Out of 20 samples submitted in the last three years 10 were reported as containing coliform bacilli in 1 100 c.c., 7 had a total bacterial count of between 30,000 and 200,000 per c.c., and 2 a count of over 200,000; this is evidence of a low standard of cleanliness.

Meat and other Foods: Slaughterhouses are visited weekly by the Sanitary Inspector. The amount of unsound meat found has been very small during the year; one portion of carcase, weighing 16 stones, was surrendered.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet fever has been more prevalent during the year, as in neighbouring districts also. The number of notified cases was 53, which is higher than in any year since 1928, and contrasts with the small number, 3, in 1933, which was the fewest recorded in any year so far back as 1889. The maximum in 1934 is not however the largest one; both in 1928 and 1927 there were 76 notified cases of scarlet fever, in 1912, 113, and in 1897

as many as 181. The clinical type of case was mild, with an absence of serious complications. The proportion of cases removed to hospital was very high, 47 of the patients being admitted to the Joint Hospital; this proportion has tended to increase for some years, e. g. between 1919 and 1922 38% of the notified cases were treated in hospital, between 1923 and 1927 55%, between 1928 and 1932 73%, and in 1933 and 1934 89%. Many of these cases thus admitted to hospital are comparatively trivial and could very well have been nursed at home, except for the difficulty of isolating them from other susceptible children in the house. Serum treatment is used in hospital for all but the mildest cases or those admitted late with a temperature normal or almost so; uncomplicated cases are discharged from hospital after a minimum isolation of 21 days and it is seldom that detention in hospital for as long as five or six weeks is required. In one of the two cases of puerperal fever, admitted to hospital with pronounced local and general signs of puerperal sepsis, a rash suggestive of scarlet fever was present on admission; she was discharged on recovery, after 23 days in hospital, and eight weeks later a child from the same house was notified to be suffering from scarlet fever.

The number of patients admitted to the Joint Isolation Hospital from this and other districts is given in the following table for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1935; the figures in brackets are the numbers admitted in the previous twelve months.

Joint Isolation Hospital.

Patients admitted April 1st, 1934, to March 31st, 1935.

	Redcar Borough.	Guisborough U.D.	Loftus U.D.	Saltburn and Marske.	Skelton and Brotton.	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	65 (81)	74 (12)	44 (6)	26 (37)	81 (13)	290 (149)
Diphtheria ...	72 (15)	21 (31)	6 (4)	26 (3)	7 (1)	132 (54)
Enteric Fever ...	—	— (1)	2	—	1 (1)	3 (2)
Erysipelas ...	— (1)	—	1	—	— (1)	1 (2)
Puerperal Fever	1 (2)	—	2 (1)	—	—	3 (3)
	138 (99)	95 (44)	55 (11)	52 (40)	89 (16)	429 (210)

The average number of patients admitted to fever hospital from these various districts over the five years 1928 to 1932 was 160: this last year has been exceptional, with a high incidence of scarlet fever and, at the same time, an epidemic of diphtheria of a severe type.

This district fortunately did not experience much diphtheria during the year, only six cases being notified, with no deaths. The clinical type, however, was severe. Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free by the Council, but few cases admitted to hospital received serum prior to admission. No action to provide artificial immunization against diphtheria was taken during the year, but a scheme was adopted and authorised early in the current year and is now in operation. A case of enteric fever was notified and removed to the Joint Hospital on October 11th, the onset of the illness having been towards the end of September. The mother of the patient was admitted to hospital on October 20th, also suffering from enteric fever. Widal tests showed the type of infection to be Paratyphoid B. The source of infection in the first case was not discovered: the houses in the locality where it occurred are, however, furnished with dry closets, and at that time flies were plentiful, so that the presence of a carrier or mild case in the neighbourhood is only needed to supply an explanation. No further cases than these two were discovered.

The case of encephalitis lethargica (sleepy sickness) which figures in the notifications, was one of several years' standing, previously notified and now re-notified on admission to a Public Assistance Hospital.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis during the year was only five, the fewest in any year so far, but deaths from the disease do not show a corresponding diminution. Of the four deaths, three were of girls between the ages of 15 and 19: pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption) in young females is a common and very serious type of the disease in the district: many of the patients have been in domestic service in other parts of the country and return home with rapidly progressing disease. The four fatal cases had all previously been notified: the non-pulmonary case (meningitis) the day before death, while the intervals between notification and death in the three pulmonary cases were 39 days, 70 and 72 days respectively.

No action has been taken under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

No action was taken under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925: no tuberculous person employed in the milk trade was discovered, and no action was required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

APPENDIX.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1934.

	All Ages	Under 1	1 year	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	53	1	1	3	4	4	20	15	3	1	—	—	—	47	—
Diphtheria ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	6	—
Enteric Fever ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Fever ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	24	2	—	1	2	2	4	3	2	1	1	4	2	—	4
Erysipelas ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	4	1	1
Enceph. Lethargica ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophth. Neonatorum ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9 years ..	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
10—14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	
20—24 years ..	—	—		—			—	—
25—34 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35—44 years ...		—		—		—		
45—54 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 years ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Ages ...		1	1	3	—	3	—	1

None of the fatal cases unnotified.

5. ABSTRACT OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

	Number dealt with.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Result.	Remarks.
Nuisances	656	138	1	Compliance	—
Slaughterhouses ...	6	5	0	Compliance	
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	74	3	0	Compliance	
Factories and Workshops ..	81	1	0	Compliance	
Offensive Trades ...	8	—	0	—	Fish-frying
Common Lodging House ...	1	—	0	—	
Music Halls, Cinemas, etc. ...	—	—	0	—	

6. LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS.

	Borough of Redcar.	Guisborough Urban District.	Loftus Urban District.	Saltburn and Marske-by-the-Sea Urban District.	Skelton and Brotton Urban District.	Total
Sputa examined for Tubercle bacilli	20	16	14	14	14	78
Sputa found positive	8	4	4	5	3	24
Swabs from Diphtheria suspects examined ...	170	59	33	29	23	314
Swabs from Diphtheria suspects found positive	72	25	4	12	5	118
Swabs from Diphtheria convalescents examined	171	76	18	8	7	280
Swabs from Diphtheria contacts	118	12	1	2	3	136
Blood examined for Enteric group (Widal Test)	1	1	1	0	0	3
Other examinations	2	3	6	0	3	14
Diphtheria Antitoxin issued by Local Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

* Denotes one positive result.

7. HOUSING STATISTICS.

New Houses erected in 1934: By private enterprise 0

By the Urban District Council 0

1. *Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :*

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts 322

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 485

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... –

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ...

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 74

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 9

3. *Remedy under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23, of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners 0

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners 0

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners 0

C. Proceedings under sections 19 and 21, Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D. Proceedings under Section 20, of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

8. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Period.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths at Ages		Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	Yearly Birth rate.	Yearly Death rate.	Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths per thousand births).
				Under 1 year.	1—4 years.				
1884—1888	6,453	1172	505	161	62		36·4	15·7	137
1889—1893	6,208	1018	465	126	59	—	32·8	15·0	124
1894—1898	6,200	989	440	135	60	—	32·1	14·2	136
1899—1903	6,508	1150	496	159	53	—	35·4	15·2	138
1904—1908	7,600	1310	547	161	60	45	34·5	14·4	123
1909—1913	8,872	1465	600	172	72	45	33·0	13·5	117
1914—1918	8,700	1175	576	141	—	46	27·0	13·3	120
1919—1923	9,120	1148	481	93	47	39	25·2	10·6	81
1924—1928	8,342	782	458	43	17	28	18·8	11·0	55
1929—1933	7,897	648	461	38	18	19	16·4	11·7	59
1933	8,116	126	93	5	3	5	15·5	11·5	40
1934	8,010	101	85	4	2	4	12·6	10·6	39